

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending. Of those, claims 15-20 are allowed and claims 1-5 and 7-11 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,752,898 to Koenig. The Examiner objects to claims 6 and 12-14 as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Examiner states that claims 6 and 12-14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-5 and 7-11, as amended herein, are in condition for allowance. As amended, claim 1 recites an apparatus for “detecting wafer flat shift comprising a plurality of sensors and a relay circuit for operating a solenoid in a power supply circuit.” Similarly, independent claim 7, as amended recites “a method for detecting wafer flat shift comprising the steps of detecting a wafer flat shift by an optical beam sensor, sending a signal from the sensor to a solenoid through a relay”.

Koenig neither discloses nor suggest the inventive embodiment disclosed in claims 1 and 7, or any claim depending therefrom.

Koenig is directed to an edge finding device for wafers. Referring to Fig. 1, the reference alleges a device having motor 17, gear box 19, pulleys 20 and 21, position encoder 25, computer 29, motor control 27 and input electronics 37. A wafer 11 is interposed between a light source 35 and the photodetector array 31. The light source illuminates edge 33 and only that portion of detector cells 31 which is not covered by wafer 11. See col. 3, lines 4-36. Koenig alleges that since array 31 is radially aligned

with respect to rotation axis 15 of the wafer, the number of illuminator detectors cells is indicative of the position of edge 33 from axis 15. Thus, array 31 detects the position of edge 33 and signals electronics 37 indicating the edge position of wafer 11. Input electronics 37 also receives a signal from position encoder 25 representing the orientation of wafer 11. Based on this information, the input electronics 37 samples the incoming orientation angle and sends data points to computer 29. Computer 29 controls the position of wafer 11 by controlling power to motor 17.

Clearly, the reference fails to anticipate independent claims 1 and 7 for failing to disclose the above-identified recitations. The reference fails to render independent claims 1 and 7 unpatentable because there is no suggestion, whether expressed or implied, to modify Koenig's device to incorporate "a relay circuit" and "a solenoid" as claimed herein.

CONCLUSION

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1 and 7 are now in condition for allowance. Each of claims 2-6 and 8-14 are deemed patentable by the virtue of its dependence from a patentable independent claim. Accordingly, additional reasons for patentability of each of the dependent claims will not be proffered.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to discuss any issue relating to this application.

Respectfully Submitted,


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